

ISTEP+ Mathematics Calculator Policy: Grades 3-8 and 10

Grades 3-5

In grades 3-5, calculators are **not allowed** on ISTEP+ unless specified in the student's IEP or Section 504 plan.

Grades 6-8

In grades 6-8, calculators are allowed on the ISTEP+ Part 1 Assessment and any “calculator” session of the ISTEP+ Part 2 Assessment. For sessions that allow calculator use, students should use the online calculator if taking the test online. Students may use a handheld calculator as long as the functionalities of the calculator do not exceed those of a scientific calculator. It is recommended that students use a scientific calculator in Grades 6-8, in particular, when the Pi button is necessary for content covered in Grades 7 and 8.

Grade 10

In grade 10, calculators are allowed on the ISTEP+ Part 1 Assessment and any “calculator” session of the ISTEP+ Part 2 Assessment. For sessions that allow calculator use, students should use the online calculator if taking the test online. Students may use a handheld calculator as long as the functionalities of the calculator do not meet or exceed the following criteria:

- Calculators with QWERTY keypads
- Calculators with a computer algebra system or dynamic algebra system
- Calculators with infrared communication functionality
- Calculators with paper tapes
- Calculators that require an electrical outlet
- Calculators that make noise or “talk”

Pocket organizers, handheld computers, laptop computers, electronic writing pads, cellular phones, and digital music players are prohibited for use as a calculator on any part of the ISTEP+ assessment.

The memory, stored programs, and applications in each personal calculator should be cleared before and after testing. Students should be told prior to the test day to store all software and data they wish to save on a computer or calculator not being used for the test.

Please note that any prohibited calculator described in the calculator policy is intended only for students who do not have an IEP or Section 504 plan requiring the use of calculators on ISTEP+. Students with an IEP or Section 504 plan that states they are allowed to use their own calculators during testing may do so even if those calculators appear in this document. Be sure to ask your Corporation Testing Coordinator if you are unsure whether a particular calculator is allowed.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Sharing of calculators during a test session is prohibited.